Newsletter

ACL — Administration for Community Living

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

2013 Older Americans Month Theme: *Unleash the Power of Age*

In This Issue:

Mental Health Awareness and Older Americans

2012 Report of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities

HHS Strengthens Community-Based Organizations That Support Seniors and People with Disabilities In Nine States

Disability Is an Important Risk Factor for Food Insecurity

EEOC Issues Revised Publications on the Employment Rights of People with Specific Disabilities

NCD Offers Analysis of Medicaid Block Grants and Self-Direction

Health Insurance Marketplace Training Schedule

From the HHS Secretary:

Use of Health IT by Medical Providers More Than Doubles Since 2012

Thousands of Votes Cast in Online Dialogue on School-to-Work Transitions

Interagency Task Force on Military and Veterans Mental Health: 2013 Interim Report

Funding Opportunity

Applications Now Available to Improve Education and Employment Outcomes for Low-Income Children with Disabilities

Stay Informed

Webinar on Accountable Care Organizations and Patient-Centered Medical Homes

Tools & Information

New AGID Release Makes 2012 National Survey of OAA Participants Data Available

PCFSN Launches Phase 2 of *I Can Do It, You Can Do It!*

CDC Hepatitis Risk Assessment

May Observances

Share this on Facebook
Tweet this to a friend

Cast Your Vote Today!
Voting for the Unleash the Power of Age in Your Community Challenge ends today

Go to the "Unleash the Power of Age" Challenge website and take a moment to select your favorite nominees in the Challenge. These older Americans are making positive changes in their communities. This is your chance to celebrate and honor them. Today is the last day to cast your vote!

Mental Health Awareness and Older Americans
Blog by Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging

May marks the observance of both National Mental Health Awareness Month and Older Americans Month. Good mental health is essential to overall health, yet many of us have struggled with our mental health at one time or know someone, maybe a loved one, neighbor, or colleague who has.

Depression is not a normal part of aging. According to the Institute of Medicine, mental health problems affect as many as one in five older people. Because older adults are more likely to have chronic conditions like diabetes and heart disease, they have an increased risk of depression.

The good news is that mental health conditions can be prevented and treated, no matter your age.

The Administration on Aging has been working closely with the HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) and other federal agencies to help older adults and their family caregivers maintain good mental health. Aging, mental health and primary care providers are working together to help older adults live healthy and independent lives in their community of choice. Services funded by the National Family Caregiver Support Program and other programs help caregivers learn coping skills and receive support. Such programs have been shown to reduce caregivers' feelings of burden and depression.

The Affordable Care Act will continue to expand the availability of mental health care from primary care doctors and other mental health providers in the community. Investing in these important services is critical in preventing and treating mental health conditions.

Information about treatment resources near you can be found through SAMHSA's Treatment Referral line at 1-800-662-4357 (HELP). This toll-free service provides information on where to go for help on prevention, treatment, and recovery. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 (TALK) provides help free to people in crisis. Both lines are confidential and open to all, 365 days a year

You can find more information and resources about older adult mental health on the AoA Behavioral Health Webpage and SAMHSA website.

Back to the top

2012 Report of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities

The 2012 Report of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) was transmitted to the White House earlier this month, and is now available on the ACL website.

The report provides recommendations regarding Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The purpose of the PCPID 2012 Report to the President is to:

- Provide background on MLTSS to assist the intellectual and developmental disability community with understanding the changes occurring and ways to influence outcomes
- Provide recommendations to the President and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for consideration and possible action

The report contains 15 recommendations in the following areas:

- Disability stakeholder engagement
- Choice and self-determination
- Consumer protections and rights
- Quality measurement, data collection, and research

It also recommends that states and the federal government engage disability stakeholders in the design, implementation, and oversight of MLTSS program to ensure consumer protections.

[View summary version of PCPID report (PDF)](#)

[View full version of PCPID report (PDF)](#)

Webinar on PCPID Report and Recommendations for Managed Long-Term Services and Supports

Across the country, states are transforming the way they finance and deliver Medicaid long-term services and supports for individuals with disabilities. Many states are considering Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) programs as a way to improve coordination, promote systems change, and achieve savings. There are potential benefits, but also significant concerns for individuals with ID/DD.

Stakeholder engagement from individuals with disabilities and their families and strong federal oversight are critical as states consider developing and implementing programs. The President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID) convened experts on MLTSS and issued a report with numerous specific recommendations. Sponsored by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities, this webinar will provide an overview of MLTSS, explain key issues for individuals with ID/DD, and highlight recommendations contained in the report.

Presenters:

Joe Caldwell, University of Illinois at Chicago & National Council on Aging

Deborah Spitalnik, PCPID Citizen Member and Director of Elizabeth M. Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities UCEDD

Elizabeth Weintraub, PCPID Citizen Member and Self-Advocate Specialist at Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Rachel Patterson, Policy Analyst at Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013
Time: 2:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. EDT

Register.

HHS Strengthens Community-Based Organizations That Support Seniors and People with Disabilities in Nine States
Non-profits to receive technical assistance, create a learning collaborative

In a new approach, the Administration for Community Living (ACL), part of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, has selected networks of community-based organizations (CBOs) that have years of experience serving seniors and people with disabilities to receive training in marketing, contracting and pricing their services. While local organizations know their communities and the issues their clients face daily, they may not have expertise in forming business relationships with healthcare providers. The technical assistance provided by ACL will help the CBOs build skills and align service capabilities so they can build business relationships with healthcare entities that do not typically provide community-based long-term services and supports, like hospitals, health systems, accountable care organizations, and managed/integrated care plans.

Nine organizations have been selected to participate:

- Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) of Erie County and Niagara County (NY)
- San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services (CA)
- Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley (MA)
- PA Association of AAA, Inc., in partnership with the PA Center for Independent Living (PA)
- Partners in Care Foundation (CA)
- Minnesota Metro Aging and Business Network (MN)
- The Senior Alliance and the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (MI)

- Alliance for Aging Inc., Miami and ADRC of Broward County (FL)
- North Central Texas Council of Governments (TX)

During the initiative's intensive education phase, the local networks will form a national learning collaborative that will share experiences, including lessons learned, innovative ideas, and best practices for providing integrated care in a variety of community settings. At the conclusion of the initiative, the collaborative will share its models and other tools with communities and local agencies facing similar challenges.

Click here to read the complete announcement.

Back to the top

Disability Is an Important Risk Factor for Food Insecurity

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service (ERS), disability has emerged as one of the strongest known factors that affect a household's food security. Recent ERS research found that in 2009-10, one-third of households with a working-age adult who was unable to work due to disability were food insecure and one-quarter of households that included a working-age adult with a disability that did not necessarily prevent employment were food insecure. In comparison, 12 percent of households that had no working-age adults with disabilities were food insecure in 2009-10.

Read more.

Back to the top

EEOC Issues Revised Publications on the Employment Rights of People with Specific Disabilities

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) last week issued four revised documents on protection against disability discrimination, pursuant to the goal of the agency's Strategic Plan to provide up-to-date guidance on the requirements of antidiscrimination laws.

The documents address how the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) applies to applicants and employees with cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, and intellectual disabilities.

In plain, easy-to-understand language, the revised documents reflect the changes to the definition of disability made by the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) that make it easier to conclude that individuals with a wide range of impairments, including cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, and intellectual disabilities,

are protected by the ADA. Each of the documents also answers questions about topics such as: when an employer may obtain medical information from applicants and employees; what types of reasonable accommodations individuals with these particular disabilities might need; how an employer should handle safety concerns; and what an employer should do to prevent and correct disability-based harassment.

Back to the top

NCD Offers Analysis of Medicaid Block Grants and Self-Direction

Last week, the National Council on Disability (NCD), an independent federal agency that advises the President, Administration, Congress, and other federal agencies on disability policy released two new Medicaid policy publications—one on the topic of Medicaid block granting and the other on Medicaid self-direction. The publications seek to address concerns held by both providers and consumers as changes to Medicaid are considered and made in the months and years ahead.

In "A Medicaid Block Grant Program," NCD examines the history of federal block grant programs in general as well as proposals to block grant federal Medicaid funding; the fiscal challenges underlying the consideration of capping federal Medicaid funding and converting the program into a block grant authority; and the potential impact of current and past Medicaid block grant proposals.

In "The Case for Medicaid Self-Direction," NCD traces the history of self-directed services in the U.S. and its emergence and growth in Medicaid; summarizes findings regarding the cost-effectiveness of self-directed services; explores the implications of the growing use of Medicaid managed care for the future of self-directed services and supports; and recommends strategies for improving the accessibility and quality of self-directed Medicaid services and supports.

Back to the top

Health Insurance Marketplace Training Schedule

Beginning in June, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will offer two training sessions on the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Health Insurance Marketplace 101 is a one-hour high-level webinar overview of the accomplishments of the Affordable Care Act and a basic introduction to the Marketplace (Exchanges) highlighting who is eligible and how the Marketplace will work.

Understanding the Health Insurance Marketplace is a two-hour detailed review of the Marketplace (Exchanges), including eligibility, enrollment, plan structure, Medicaid expansion, and the streamlined application.

Each session will be offered on multiple dates in June and July. Select you preferred date for each session and click on the appropriate link to register.

Health Insurance Marketplace 101

Date	Time	Registration Link
June-05	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/mp060513/event/registration.html
June-06	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/himp060613/event/registration.html
June-12	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/himp61213/event/registration.html
June-19	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/himp61913/event/registration.html
June-20	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/himp62013/event/registration.html
June-26	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/himp062613/event/registration.html
July-03	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/himp70313/event/registration.html
July-10	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/himp71013/event/registration.html
July-17	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/himp71713/event/registration.html
July-18	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/himp71813/event/registration.html
July-24	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/himp072413/event/registration.html
July-31	1:00 – 2:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/himp073113/event/registration.html

Understanding the Health Insurance Marketplace

Date	Time	Registration Link
June-13	1:00 – 3:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/mp061313/event/registration.html
June-27	1:00 – 3:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/mp062713/event/registration.html
July-11	1:00 – 3:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/mp071113/event/registration.html

July-25	1:00 – 3:00 pm ET	https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/mp072513/event/registration.html

Back to the top

From the HHS Secretary

Use of Health IT by Medical Providers More Than Doubles Since 2012
More than half of America's doctors have adopted electronic health records

Health and Humans Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius last week announced that more than half of all doctors and other eligible providers have received Medicare or Medicaid incentive payments for adopting or meaningfully using electronic health records (EHRs).

HHS has met and exceeded its goal for 50 percent of doctor offices and 80 percent of eligible hospitals to have EHRs by the end of 2013. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention survey in 2012, the percent of physicians using an advanced EHR system was just 17 percent in 2008. Today, more than 50 percent of eligible professionals (mostly physicians) have demonstrated meaningful use and received an incentive payment. For hospitals, just nine percent had adopted EHRs in 2008, but today, more than 80 percent have demonstrated meaningful use of EHRs.

Read more.

Thousands of Votes Cast in Online Dialogue on School-to-Work Transitions

People with disabilities who are part of the workforce tend to have more financial resources and stronger linkages to the supports and services that help them live independently and contribute to their community.

The U.S. Departments of Labor, Education, Health and Human Services and the Social Security Administration recently hosted a free, public, online dialogue to examine the effects of existing federal regulations and legislation on the transition from school to work for youth with disabilities. Students, young adults, parents, teachers, healthcare and service providers—anyone who supports the aspirations of young people with disabilities to live, work, and thrive in their community joined this national dialogue about improving the transition from school to work. Close to 200 ideas on how the federal government can help young people with disabilities to successfully make the

transition were submitted. More than 4,000 votes were cast for the favorite submission.

Click here to read the submissions.

Back to the top

Interagency Task Force on Military and Veterans Mental Health: 2013 Interim Report

Last week, the Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA), Defense (DoD) and Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the release of *Interagency Task Force on Military and Veterans Mental Health: 2013 Interim Report*.

The report details the progress made by the Federal inter-agency to date on initiatives called for in President Obama's August 31, 2012, Executive Order to Improve Access to Mental Health Services for Veterans, Service Members, and their families.

Back to the top

Funding Opportunity

Applications Now Available to Improve Education and Employment Outcomes for Low-Income Children with Disabilities

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education announced a funding opportunity for a new competitive grant program, *Promoting Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income (PROMISE)*. PROMISE was proposed by the Obama Administration to improve the education and career outcomes of low income children with disabilities receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The program is designed to serve children with disabilities, ages 14-16, who are receiving SSI and their families.

The PROMISE program is an interagency collaboration of the U.S. Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Labor and the Social Security Administration. Under this new competitive grant program, state agencies will partner to develop and implement a model demonstration project that provides coordinated services and supports designed to improve the education and career outcomes of children with disabilities receiving SSI, including services and supports to their families.

PROMISE is open to all 50 States and the District of Columbia, and states may apply together as a consortium. The Department intends to fund three to six projects between $4.5 million to $10 million a year for 5 years.

The [PROMISE Application Package](#) deadline for submitting completed applications is August 19, 2013.

In order to assist with the application process, the Department will host webinars for applicants to review the application and ask questions on Thursday, May 30, 2013 and Tuesday, June 4, 2013.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the webinars and to register.

[Back to the top](#)

Stay Informed

Webinar on Accountable Care Organizations and Patient-Centered Medical Homes

Join the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Innovations Exchange for an interactive dialogue exploring strategies for building Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) to promote accountable care organizations (ACOs) and patient-centered medical homes.

The exchange will begin with information about lessons learned from Delaware's innovative Health Information Network (DHIN), an integrated, statewide health data system to support the information needs of consumers, health plans, policymakers, providers, purchasers and research to improve the quality and efficiency of health care services in Delaware.

Participants will explore questions such as:

- What are key tools and strategies to encourage providers to link to a statewide HIE?
- What types of participation should be required (besides opt-out options)?
- How can specialty providers such as mental health professionals be encouraged to both provide data to and use the HIE for care coordination?
- What strategies facilitate providing real-time data to practices?
- What are some of the issues that need to be resolved to promote cross-state information exchange for patients who receive care outside of the state?
- What are strategies for efficiently using HIE data for planning?
- What types of data may be used for population-based analytics? What are some issues to consider?

Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2013
Time: 1.00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET

Presenter:

Jan Lee, MD, Executive Director, Delaware Health Information Network

Respondent:

Jennifer Fritz, MP, Deputy Director, Health Information Exchange Office of Health Information Technology, Minnesota Department of Health

Register.

Back to the top

Tools & Information

New AGID Release Makes 2012 National Survey of OAA Participants Data Available

On May 17th, an update to the AGing Integrated Database (AGID) featured the addition of the 2012 National Survey of OAA Participants data. The 2012 data are available in the AGID sections of Custom Tables and Data Files. Documentation for the 2012 National Survey data is also available in the Data Files section of AGID.

Back to the top

PCFSN Launches Phase 2 of *I Can Do It, You Can Do It!*

Last week, the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition announced the expansion and revitalization of the *I Can Do It, You Can Do It! (ICDI)* program for people with disabilities. The program previously focused on youth participation and was implemented in nine sites across the U.S. Now, ICDI will include children and adults—which could impact approximately 56 million Americans with disabilities. The goal is to implement the program in at least 100 sites – including primary schools, colleges/universities and community-based facilities – nationwide over the next five years.

Back to the top

CDC Hepatitis Risk Assessment

More than 75% of adults infected with **Hepatitis C** are baby boomers, people born from 1945 through 1965. Most people with Hepatitis C don't know they are infected. The only way to know if you have Hepatitis C is to get tested.

To determine if you may have Hepatitis C, take the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Hepatitis Risk Assessment. It will take only five minutes.

Back to the top

May Observances

For the month:

Arthritis Awareness Month
Resources: Arthritis Foundation

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
Theme: "I Want the Wide American Earth"
Asian American and Pacific islander Heritage Month, 2013 Presidential Proclamation
Message from HHS Secretary Sebelius
Resources: Smithsonian Institution Asian Pacific American Center or Asian/Pacific American Heritage Association

Healthy Vision Month
Resource: National Eye Institute

Hepatitis Awareness Month
Resource: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Hepatitis Testing Day Webpage

High Blood Pressure Awareness Month
Resource: National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

Jewish American Heritage Month
Theme: American Jews in Entertainment
Resource: Jewish American Heritage Month

National Fitness and Sports Month
National Fitness and Sports Month, 2013 Presidential Proclamation
Resource: Healthfinder.gov or President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition

National Mental Health Month
National Mental Health Mon, 2013 Presidential Proclamation
Message from HHS Secretary Sebelius

Theme: "Pathways to Wellness"
Resource: [Mental Health America]

Older Americans Month
Theme: "Unleash the Power of Age"
Resource: [ACL Older Americans Month Website]

Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month
Resource: [American Cancer Society]

Stroke Awareness Month
Resource: [National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke] or [National Stroke Association]

For the week:

National Hurricane Preparedness Week (May 26-June 1)
Resource: [National Hurricane Center]

For the Day:

World No Tobacco Day (May 31)
Theme: "Ban tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship"
Resource: [WHO World No Tobacco Day Webpage]

[Back to the top]